This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A telescopic flag pole assembly comprising:

a bottom segment, at least one intermediate segment, and a top segment, each of said segments comprising a rigid elongate cylindrical tube of a size to fit telescopically within the next adjacent lower tube;

a plurality of sleeve assemblies to facilitate telescopic movement of the adjacent tubes, each one of said sleeve assemblies being positioned between an associated pairing of a relatively lower segment and a relatively higher segment; and

a plurality of biasing means, each one of said biasing means urging an associate one of said segments toward an extended position;

wherein each one of said plurality of sleeve assemblies further comprises:

an upper sleeve member positionable to abut a top edge of said relatively lower one of said segments; and

a lower sleeve member positionable to abut a lower edge of said relatively higher one of said segments;

wherein said upper sleeve member and said lower sleeve member are configured to selectively engage each other such that said lower sleeve member is capable of being maintained in a static position relative to said upper sleeve member, a locking slot being defined on said upper sleeve member at position in a lower portion of a perimeter wall, a locking tab

being defined on said lower sleeve member and extending from an upper portion of a perimeter wall, said lower sleeve member having a central longitudinal axis, a reference plane extending perpendicular to said central longitudinal axis;

wherein said locking slot is defined by a slot edge of said perimeter wall, said slot edge extending at an inclined angle with respect to said reference plane, and wherein said locking tab is defined by a tab edge of said perimeter wall, said tab edge extending at said inclined angle with respect to said reference plane such that rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a first direction engages said locking tab into said locking slot and rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a second direction disengages said locking tab from said locking slot.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1, wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a bottom portion of an associated one of said biasing means associated with said relatively higher segment.

4. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1, wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises ~~a~~ an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top portion of an associated one of said biasing means associated with said relatively lower segment.

5. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1, wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said relatively higher segment.

6. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1, wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises:

a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a bottom portion of an associated one of said biasing means associated with said relatively higher segment;

~~a~~ an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top portion of an associated one of said biasing means associated with said relatively lower segment; and

a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said relatively higher segment.

7. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1, wherein said upper sleeve member further comprises a lip portion, said lip portion abutting a top edge of said relatively lower segment.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said biasing means is a spring member.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 10, wherein said spring member has a compressed overall length of approximately 9 inches and a fully extended overall length of approximately 90 inches.

12. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a stop ring member positionable in a bottom portion of said bottom segment, said stop ring engaging a bottom portion of a first one of said plurality of biasing means.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A telescopic flag pole assembly comprising:

a bottom segment, at least one intermediate segment, and a top segment, each of said segments comprising a rigid elongate cylindrical tube of a size to fit telescopically within the next adjacent lower tube;

a plurality of sleeve assemblies to facilitate telescopic movement of the adjacent tubes, each one of said sleeve assemblies being positioned between an associated pairing of a relatively lower segment and a relatively higher segment;

a plurality of biasing means, each one of said biasing means urging an associate one of said segments toward an extended position;

wherein each one of said plurality of sleeve assemblies further comprises:

an upper sleeve member positionable to abut a top edge of said relatively lower one of said segments;

a lower sleeve member positionable to abut a lower edge of said relatively higher one of said segments;

wherein said upper sleeve member and said lower sleeve member are configured to selectively engage each other such that said lower sleeve member is capable of being maintained in a static position relative to said upper sleeve member, a locking slot being defined on said upper sleeve member at

position in a lower portion of a perimeter wall, a locking tab being defined on said lower sleeve member and extending from an upper portion of a perimeter wall, said lower sleeve member having a central longitudinal axis, a reference plane extending perpendicular to said central longitudinal axis;

wherein said locking slot is defined by a slot edge of said perimeter wall, said slot edge extending at an inclined angle with respect to said reference plane, and wherein said locking tab is defined by a tab edge of said perimeter wall, said tab edge extending at said inclined angle with respect to said reference plane such that rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a first direction engages said locking tab into said locking slot and rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a second direction disengages said locking tab from said locking slot;

said lower sleeve member further comprises:

a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a bottom portion of an associated one of said biasing means associated with said relatively higher segment;

~~a~~ an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top portion of an associated one of said biasing means associated with said relatively lower segment;

a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said relatively higher segment;

said upper sleeve member further comprises a lip portion, said lip portion abutting a top edge of said relatively lower segment;

~~said upper sleeve member selectively engages said lower sleeve member whereby said lower sleeve member is~~

~~maintained in a static position relative to said upper sleeve member;~~

~~said upper sleeve member having a locking slot portion positioned in a lower portion of a perimeter wall;~~

~~said lower sleeve member having a locking tab portion extending from an upper portion of a perimeter wall;~~

~~said locking tab portion slideably engaging said locking slot portion whereby rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a first direction engages said locking tab into said locking slot and rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a second direction disengages said locking tab from said locking slot;~~

each of said plurality of biasing means ~~is~~comprising a spring member;

a stop ring member positionable in a bottom portion of said bottom segment, said stop ring engaging a bottom portion of a first one of said plurality of biasing means~~; and~~

~~a plurality of retaining means, each one of said plurality of retaining means being associated with one of said segments, each one of said retaining means selectively securing said segment in a non-extended position~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A telescopic flag pole assembly comprising:

a bottom segment, and a top segment, each of said segments comprising a rigid elongate cylindrical tube, said top segment being of a size to fit telescopically within said bottom segment;

a sleeve assembly to facilitate telescopic movement of said tubes, said sleeve assembly being positioned between said bottom segment and said top segment;

a biasing means urging said top ~~segments~~ segment toward an extended position;

said sleeve assembly further comprises:

an upper sleeve member positionable to abut a top edge of said bottom segment; and

a lower sleeve member positionable to abut a lower edge of said top segment;

wherein said upper sleeve member and said lower sleeve member are configured to selectively engage each other such that said lower sleeve member is capable of being maintained in a static position relative to said upper sleeve member, a locking slot being defined on said upper sleeve member at position in a lower portion of a perimeter wall, a locking tab being defined on said lower sleeve member and extending from an upper portion of a perimeter wall, said lower sleeve member having a central longitudinal axis, a reference plane extending perpendicular to said central longitudinal axis;

wherein said locking slot is defined by a slot edge of said perimeter wall, said slot edge extending at an inclined angle with respect to said reference plane, and wherein said locking tab is defined by a tab edge of said perimeter wall, said tab edge extending at said inclined angle with respect to

said reference plane such that rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a first direction engages said locking tab into said locking slot and rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a second direction disengages said locking tab from said locking slot.

16. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 15, wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises:

a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a bottom portion of said biasing means;

~~a~~ an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top portion of said biasing means; and

a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said top segment.

17. (Original) The assembly of claim 15, wherein said upper sleeve member further comprises a lip portion, said lip portion abutting a top edge of said relatively lower segment.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 15, further comprising:

wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises:

a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a bottom portion of said biasing means;

~~a~~ an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top portion of said biasing means;

a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said top segment;

wherein said upper sleeve member further comprises a lip portion, said lip portion abutting a top edge of said relatively lower segment;

said upper sleeve member selectively engages said lower sleeve member whereby said lower sleeve member is maintained in a static position relative to said upper sleeve member;

said upper sleeve member having a locking slot portion positioned in a lower portion of a perimeter wall;

said lower sleeve member having a locking tab portion extending from an upper portion of a perimeter wall;

said locking tab portion slideably engaging said locking slot portion whereby rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a first direction engages said locking tab into said locking slot and rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a second direction disengages said locking tab from said locking slot; and

a stop ring member positionable in a bottom portion of said bottom segment, said stop ring engaging a bottom portion of said biasing means~~; and~~

~~a retaining means for selectively securing said segment in a non-extended position~~.

21. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said inclined angle is approximately 45 degrees with respect to said reference plane.

22. (New) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said inclined angle is approximately 45 degrees with respect to said reference plane.

23. (New) The assembly of claim 15 wherein said inclined angle is approximately 45 degrees with respect to said reference plane.

24. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein an uppermost edge of said locking tab defines a point that tapers wider toward a lowermost portion of said locking tab.

25. (New) The assembly of claim 14 wherein an uppermost edge of said locking tab defines a point that tapers wider toward a lowermost portion of said locking tab.

26. (New) The assembly of claim 15 wherein an uppermost edge of said locking tab defines a point that tapers wider toward a lowermost portion of said locking tab.